

genuine loyalty. The Walden Rotary Club tribute to Tom is in long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join in applauding an outstanding human being, Tom Murray of Walden, NY.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JAMES
AND ANNA MAE GAMBLE ON
THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Gamble on their 50th wedding anniversary. While raising their six children, Mr. Gamble worked as a printer and Mrs. Gamble worked as a supervisor with the Home Energy Assistant Program. Currently, they are proud parents of 6 children and grandparents to 13 grandchildren.

Over the years, Mr. and Mrs. Gamble have been strong supporters of their community. Because of his solid presence in their neighborhood, Mr. Gamble is often spoken of as the "Mayor" of Jefferson Avenue. As a past president of the Sand T Block Association, Mrs. Gamble has spent inexhaustible hours contributing to efforts which have made that community close knit.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating them in passing this milestone in their lives.

UNRECOGNIZED SOUTHEAST ALASKA
NATIVE COMMUNITIES RECOGNITION ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Unrecognized Southeast Alaska Native Communities Recognition Act. This legislation provides long overdue recognition of five Native communities of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, and Wrangell, which were wrongly denied the opportunity to establish and enroll in a Native corporation under the terms of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act [ANCSA]. The act also provides for a process to determine the lands or other appropriate compensation for the communities.

This legislation is intended to rectify an injustice that is over 25 years old. In 1971, ANCSA was enacted as the means to settle the aboriginal claims of Alaska Natives to their traditional homelands. The law provided for the establishment of Native Corporations, which were awarded land and compensation. Natives could enroll to 1 of 13 regional corporations and, within the geographic area of their regional corporation, to the village where they lived or had historic, culture, or familial ties.

However, Natives in the five southeast Alaska villages of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, and Wrangell, were not recognized

in ANCSA, and therefore were denied the ability to form Native corporations. The legislative and historical record of ANCSA does not clearly provide a reason for leaving these villages out of the process of forming Native corporations.

A study ordered by Congress in 1993 examined why the five unrecognized communities were denied eligibility to form Native corporations. The study found that there was no meaningful distinction between the five communities and other communities in southeast Alaska recognized in ANCSA, and thus no justification for omission of the Native communities of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, and Wrangell from eligibility to form urban or group corporations under ANCSA.

The Natives and their heirs in these communities deserve the chance to enroll to Native corporations. The legislation I am introducing simply grants recognition to these communities and enables them to form Native corporations. The bill also directs the Secretaries of Interior and of Agriculture to submit a report to Congress regarding lands or other compensation that should be provided to the new urban and group corporations that are established.

This is the first, but most important step to bringing the struggle of the Natives of five southeast Alaska communities to a close.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RHINO
AND TIGER PRODUCT LABELING
ACT: NOVEMBER 4, 1997

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today, along with my colleague, GEORGE MILLER, the Rhino and Tiger Product Labeling Act of 1997.

This legislation will amend the landmark Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994, Public Law 103-391, to ensure that no person may import any product labeled or containing any species of rhinoceros or tiger into, or export any such product from, the United States.

Regrettably, all five species of both rhinoceros and tigers are critically endangered. For nearly 20 years they have been listed as endangered on both appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora [CITES] and our own Endangered Species Act.

In the case of tigers, their future is particularly bleak. In fact, it has been estimated that there are now less than 5,000 animals living in the wild, which is a 95-percent decline from the beginning of this century. There are fewer than 500 South China and Siberian tigers left in the world. Despite the enactment of Public Law 103-391 and the approval of several valuable tiger rescue grants financed by the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund, these irreplaceable species continue to be killed by poachers for their fur, as well as for other body parts. Shamans and practitioners of traditional medicine, especially the Chinese, value almost every part of the cat.

Tiger bone powders and tablets have been used for generations to combat pain, kidney, and liver problems, rheumatism, convulsions, and heart conditions.

Mr. Speaker, the population estimates for the rhinoceros are slightly better than tigers with 11,000 animals living in the wild. Nevertheless, there are several rhino species that are teetering on extinction. For instance, there are only 100 Javan and fewer than 500 Sumatran rhinos left on this planet.

While human population growth and competition for land have contributed to the destruction of rhinoceros habitat, the major cause of this species' decline has been the insatiable demand for products made from rhino horn. In Asia, rhinoceros horn obtained almost exclusively from illegal sources has been used for generations to treat headaches and fever in children.

By killing these flagship species, poachers are reaping huge financial rewards. In fact, Asian rhino horn is selling for up to \$60,000 per kilogram and tiger bones can sell for over \$1,400 a pound.

In order to save these species, we must eliminate the market for these products and stop consumers from purchasing medicines made from endangered rhinos and tigers. While it may be difficult to change traditional healing practices in China, Taiwan, and Vietnam, we can stop their importation into the United States.

I am told that on any given day, a consumer can visit a drug store or pharmacy in such cities as Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Washington, DC, and purchase prepackaged medicines that clearly indicate they contain rhino and tiger parts. While some U.S. Customs agents will confiscate these products prior to importation, unfortunately it is virtually impossible to conclusively determine even in a laboratory that the active ingredients in the medicine originated from a rhinoceros or a tiger.

We can solve this problem by enacting the Rhino and Tiger Product Labeling Act. This legislation stipulates that if a label on a product says that it contains rhinoceros or tiger parts, then we can prevent it from coming into the United States by making the legal presumption, without any further scientific tests or analysis, that it violates our trade laws. In essence, it is a Truth in Labeling for these endangered species and if manufacturers choose to try to sell their medicines without a reference to rhinos or tigers, then consumers are not likely to purchase them.

Mr. Speaker, if there is any hope of saving rhinoceros or tigers for future generations, then we must stop the sale of products containing these animals and 1998 is the year of the tiger according to the Chinese calendar, and passage of this bill would be an effective way to celebrate this occasion.

I would urge my colleagues to join with me in this vital effort by cosponsoring the Rhino and Tiger Product Labeling Act of 1997. I would also like to thank the World Wildlife Fund and Traffic U.S.A. for their outstanding leadership in this issue and for dramatizing the plight of rhinos and tigers. We must work to ensure that the last rhino and tiger is not killed on our watch.